

amount and quality of California teachers, improve the transfer process for community college students, and develop a new funding system for California community colleges.

Senator Scott's legislative efforts have earned him recognition as Legislator of the Year from the California Federation of Teachers, Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, Association of California Community College Administrators, Association of California School Boards, California State University, and the Child Development Policy Institute. He has an honorary doctorate from Pepperdine University and has been named the Alumnus of the Year at both Claremont Graduate University and Abilene Christian University. On October 28, he received Pasadena City College Foundation's Building the Spirit of a Vibrant Community Award.

Senator Scott's extensive community involvement includes the Coalition for a Non-Violent City, Pacific Oaks College's Board of Trustees, the Board of Regents at Pepperdine University and the Association of California Community College Administrators. Jack and his wife, Lacrete, have 10 grandchildren and four surviving children, Sharon Mitchell, Shelia Head, Amy Schones, and Greg Scott; their fifth child, Adam, died in 1993.

In 2009, Senator Scott will begin his position as Chancellor of California's community colleges.

It is my great pleasure to recognize the extraordinary achievements of Senator Jack Scott and I ask all Members of Congress to join me in thanking him for his service.

HONORING RYAN PHILLIP LAWTER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Ryan Phillip Lawter of Holt, Missouri. Ryan is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1494, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Ryan has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Ryan has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Ryan Phillip Lawter for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

A TRIBUTE TO MRS. MARGARET WILLIAMS

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. CLAY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Margaret Williams, The Missouri Teacher of the Year 2008–2009 Recipient. The Missouri Teacher of the Year is a pres-

tigious honors program that focuses public attention on excellence in teaching. Williams, a 37 year educator has earned the respect and admiration of students, parents, and colleagues alike. She inspires students of all backgrounds and abilities to learn. For the aforementioned reasons, I enthusiastically honor Mrs. Williams today before Congress.

Mrs. Williams is a graduate of Beaumont High School in St. Louis, Missouri. She was inspired by her psychology teacher Mr. Brown to pursue a career in education. Mrs. Williams went on to graduate from the University of Missouri—St. Louis.

Mrs. Williams is the social studies department chair for University City High School in University City, Missouri where she has been teaching for the last 18 years. Williams who also teaches history, government, and an African-American experience course was one of six finalists to compete in this year's competition.

The Missouri Teacher of the Year program is conducted annually by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, in conjunction with the National Teacher of the Year program. Major funding for Missouri's program is provided by The Boeing Company, St. Louis, Missouri.

Before joining University City, Williams began her illustrious career in education as principal and administrator from 1986 to 1990 at West Side Christian Academy in St. Louis. After which she taught at the Visual and Performing Arts High School and Beaumont from 1971 to 1986.

Williams is the first in the University City School District to be named Missouri Teacher of the year and was honored with a special drum line presentation, and video made by the district as part of her nomination package.

Madam Speaker, Mrs. Williams has my absolute highest recommendation to be honored today. Her contributions to education and unyielding commitment to the youth of Missouri is unmatched. As a pioneer in the University City Schools and a role model to all educators that is worthy of recognition. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Mrs. Margaret Williams for being a top Missouri educator and being named the Missouri Teacher of the Year 2008–2009.

THE FAIRNESS DOCTRINE IS UNFAIR

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, it seems that some in Congress are trying to call back the speech police and reinstate the Fairness Doctrine again. Although the Fairness Doctrine was abolished over 20 years ago, some of our colleagues just can't let it go.

This time they want to police and control the radio airwaves. I'm not talking about the former Soviet Union that controlled what Russians listened to on the radio, I'm talking about the American speech police.

The so-called "Broadcast Fairness Doctrine" is an attempt by the Feds to force private radio stations to be fair and balanced by forcing broadcasters to air opposing views of public importance. Sounds good, but who's going

to determine what fair is, the Federal fair police?

Are we going to let a bunch of Potomac River bureaucrats determine if a radio station in Tomball, Texas is being fair when it discusses politics? Sounds like government control of speech to me.

It is actually totalitarian state control of speech. And what does "fair" mean? Fair means different things to different folks. In some places in the country like Texas, fair is where you take your chickens to. That's why the word "fair" is not in the Constitution. The Constitution protects free speech, not fair speech. It says "Congress (that's us, folks) shall make no law abridging the freedom of speech." And the Constitution applies to the thieves of free speech and the government's speech police whether they like it or not.

And that's just the way it is.

TRIBUTE TO NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the important research it is doing. There are few investments the Federal government makes that regularly pay such important dividends to the American taxpayer. The National Institutes of Health, the lead government agency tasked with preventing and curing diseases and disorders, is one such investment. While NIH conducts some biomedical research at its Bethesda, Maryland campus, between 80 to 90 percent of its budget funds research that takes place at universities, research centers and hospitals throughout the United States. At a time when stimulating the economy is on everyone's mind, we should remember that the NIH dollars that flow into our communities provide direct economic benefits in the form of increased employment and growth opportunities for research institutions and local businesses at the same time that they are funding research to save lives and improve the quality of life of all Americans. One example of that is NIH-supported research to identify a gene variant involved in isolated cleft lip.

About one in every 600 babies in the United States is born with isolated cleft lip and/or palate (roof of the mouth). While there are several surgeries to correct the condition, families suffer under the emotional and economic strain, and children often require additional treatment, including complex dental care and speech therapy. Because isolated clefts occur during fetal development from disruptions in the dynamic, but still poorly understood, interplay of genes, diet, and environment, ongoing research is seeking ways to prevent or reverse the problem before a baby is born.

One course of action has been to isolate genes involved in the developmental process. Six years ago, a gene known as IRF-6 was discovered. Within the gene's structure is a sequence variant known as a single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP). Scientists recently discovered that the frequency of this SNP was significantly higher in babies born with cleft lip only.

Through this type of research, scientists can now account for about 30 percent of isolated cleft lip. Researchers supported by NIH's National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) are working to identify the causes of cleft lip, develop better ways of treating clefts, and provide information on whether they might occur again in a family. Hopefully, better prevention strategies can also be an outcome of this work. Through continued research, American families can look forward to prevention of cleft lip and palate.

This is just one example of how the research funded with taxpayer dollars at the NIH is improving the health and well-being of all Americans.

TRIBUTE TO FRED BARON

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, today I pay tribute to the life of one of my long time friends, Fred Baron.

Widely known as one of the best trial lawyers in America, Fred Baron dedicated his life to making sure fairness was represented in the law and that the rights of the marginalized could not be trampled over. He was truly a champion of the working man, spending his whole career representing workers who had developed occupational illnesses. He was a pioneer in uncovering the harm that asbestos exposure causes.

I was most proud of Fred Baron when he advocated on behalf of several hundred children in the west Dallas section of my district who lived near a lead smelter that polluted their neighborhood. Thanks to his efforts not only were those families able to move, but the area has now been cleaned and is being made once again livable.

Fred Baron will long be known for the charitable work he and his wife were committed to. In 2002 he and his wife Lisa founded the Baron and Blue Foundation to help nonprofit organizations fight the problems of homelessness and displacement. The foundation was exceptionally helpful in helping many of the hurricane evacuees Dallas has seen in the last few years. Fred even spent many days after Hurricane Katrina consoling and counseling the victims who had made their way to Dallas, bringing them food, toiletries, and helping them out however he could.

Madam Speaker, Frederick Martin Baron is survived by his wife Lisa Blue-Baron, his son Andrew; daughter Courtney and her husband Brad Singer and their daughter Liza; daughters Alessandra, Caroline, and Nathalie; brother Robert and sister Joan; and the countless others he touched in the years he spent with us.

CONGRATULATING DR. ROHIT T. AGGARWALA AND THE CITY OF NEW YORK FOR RECEIVING THE "FRIEND OF THE ENVIRONMENT AWARD"

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Rohit T. Aggarwala, the Director of New York City's Office of Long-term Planning and Sustainability, within New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg's Office of Operations, for receiving the prestigious "Friend of the Environment Award" from the Alley Pond Environmental Center (APEC) on November 13th, 2008. APEC, located in Douglaston, Queens, is a superb educational center committed to environmental understanding and awareness. Rit, as he is known by his friends and colleagues, is at the forefront of Mayor Bloomberg's PlaNYC initiative, a sweeping sustainability plan for New York City's future.

A native of New York City, Dr. Aggarwala holds a BA, MBA, and PhD from Columbia University, as well as an MA from Queen's College in Ontario. Prior to joining the City government, Dr. Aggarwala worked at the Federal Railroad Administration, and currently chairs a subcommittee at the Transportation Research Board, which is part of the National Academy of Science. He is the author of several articles about transportation policy and about the history of New York City.

Under Rit's leadership as Director, New York City's Office of Long-term Planning and Sustainability is implementing a long-term sustainability plan to ensure New York City's continued prosperity, growth, and health. On Earth Day, 2007 the Mayor's Office of Long Term Planning and Sustainability released PlaNYC, which included 127 separate initiatives to protect New York's future, including: housing an additional 1 million New Yorkers affordably; increasing access to parks, playgrounds and open spaces; reclaiming brownfields; developing critical backup systems for the aging water network to ensure reliability; providing additional reliable power sources and upgrading existing power plants; and reducing water pollution so we can open the City's amazing waterways for recreation.

Madam Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in commending Dr. Aggarwala and New York City's Office of Long-term Planning and Sustainability for all of its hard work and dedication promoting sound environmental building practices, and for helping New York City lead the world as a Green global citizen.

HONORING RYAN MICHAEL CURTIS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Ryan Michael Curtis of Kansas City, Missouri. Ryan is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of Amer-

ica, Troop 1247, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Ryan has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Ryan has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Ryan Michael Curtis for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE RONALD G. MARMO

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the work of a great man, Hon. Ronald G. Marmo, who will retire after more than forty-one years at the Passaic County Courthouse. He will be honored on November 17, 2008 by his friends and colleagues for his outstanding service to the community.

It is only fitting that he be honored in this, the permanent record of the greatest freely elected body on earth, for he has a long history of dedication and commitment to his community.

Judge Marmo was born in my hometown, Paterson, New Jersey, on June 8, 1942, to Tony and Rose Marmo. He grew up in the Stony Road section of Paterson, and attended St. Bonaventure Elementary School, and then went on to St. Bonaventure High School. Throughout his years at St. Bon's, he was taught by Franciscan nuns and priests, who instilled values and imparted teachings that served him well throughout his careers.

He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Rutgers University, and a Juris Doctorate degree from Seton Hall Law School. Following graduation, he served as a law clerk to the Honorable Gordon H. Brown, Judge of the Superior Court of New Jersey Criminal Division in Passaic County. Upon completion of his clerkship, he was appointed an Assistant Prosecutor in the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office. He served in that office for twenty-two years, under five different County Prosecutors. In 1970, he was designated Chief Trial Counsel and in 1975 he was appointed Chief of the Trial Section, a position he held for fifteen years.

Notwithstanding his supervisory position, his primary role throughout his years with the Prosecutor's office was as a trial attorney. He served as the State's attorney in hundreds of jury trials including dozens of homicide cases. He tried two lengthy capital cases which each resulted in a jury verdict of the death penalty. He was commonly assigned the trials of the most celebrated cases. Governor Jim Florio appointed him Judge of the Superior Court of New Jersey in 1990. Judge Marmo was assigned to the Civil Division for two years, and later for two years to the Family Division. Otherwise, Judge Marmo was primarily assigned to the Criminal Division. He served for ten years as the municipal prosecutor for the Borough of North Haledon, as well as serving ten